

The President's Daily Brief

8 April 1971

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~~Top Secret~~

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Pakistan is discussed on *Page 1*.

The situation in Ceylon is discussed on *Page 2*.

US table tennis team to visit Communist China.
(*Page 3*)

[REDACTED] Ban
Na artillery base. (*Page 4*)

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[REDACTED]
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(*Page 6*)

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PAKISTAN

No significant change has occurred in the military situation in East Pakistan, with the army still holding Dacca and a few other cities, while the Bengali separatists hold most of the countryside.

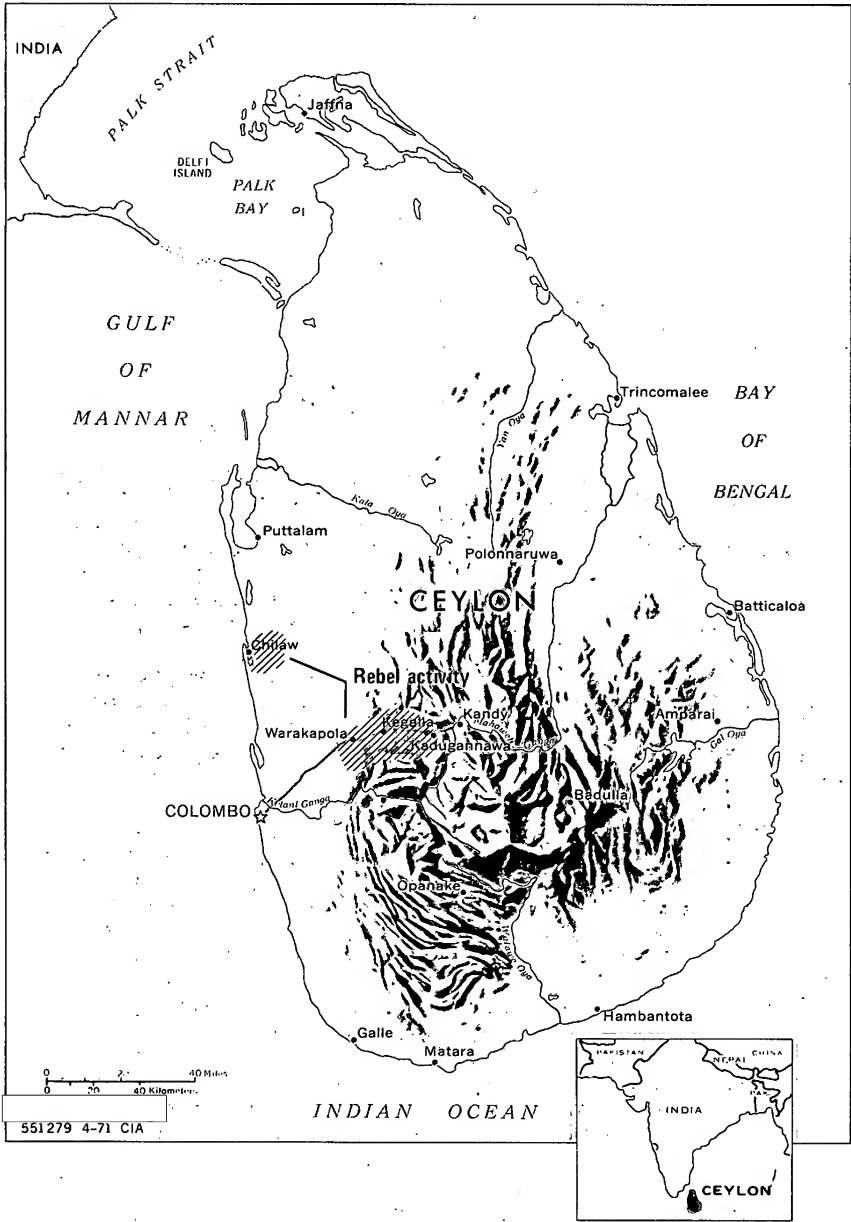
In West Pakistan, the government's censorship and control of the news has helped to generate widespread domestic support for the government's actions. Observers report a rising uncertainty and gloom in some quarters over the delay in bringing the East Pakistanis to heel, but those West Pakistanis who are concerned that the breach between the two sectors has become irreparable are but a small minority.

India remains under considerable domestic pressure to assist the East Pakistanis. Yesterday, the West Bengal state government called on New Delhi to accord early recognition to the "provisional government of Bangla Desh."

In a diplomatic note [redacted] Peking accused India of "flagrantly" interfering in the domestic affairs of Pakistan. The note avoided expressing any commitment to Islamabad, while aimed at forestalling a major Indian move to come to the East's aid.

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CEYLON

Despite public claims, widespread insurgency continues. The US Embassy has heard from unofficial sources that several hundred police, military, and insurgents have already been killed during the fighting. Action was reported Tuesday night in several districts in the area between Colombo and Kandy. Colombo itself is still fairly quiet although there have been a few incidents involving bands of youthful insurgents; the police have set up road blocks around the city's inner core.

The insurgents, according to the embassy, apparently are receiving support from the rural populace and the youth and there are even pockets of sympathy for the rebels among the security forces although, for the present, the troops are carrying out government orders.

Government forces appear to be doing a reasonably good job despite their lack of preparedness.

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At the moment, the prime minister gives the impression of being in full control, with the security forces reporting directly to her. [REDACTED]

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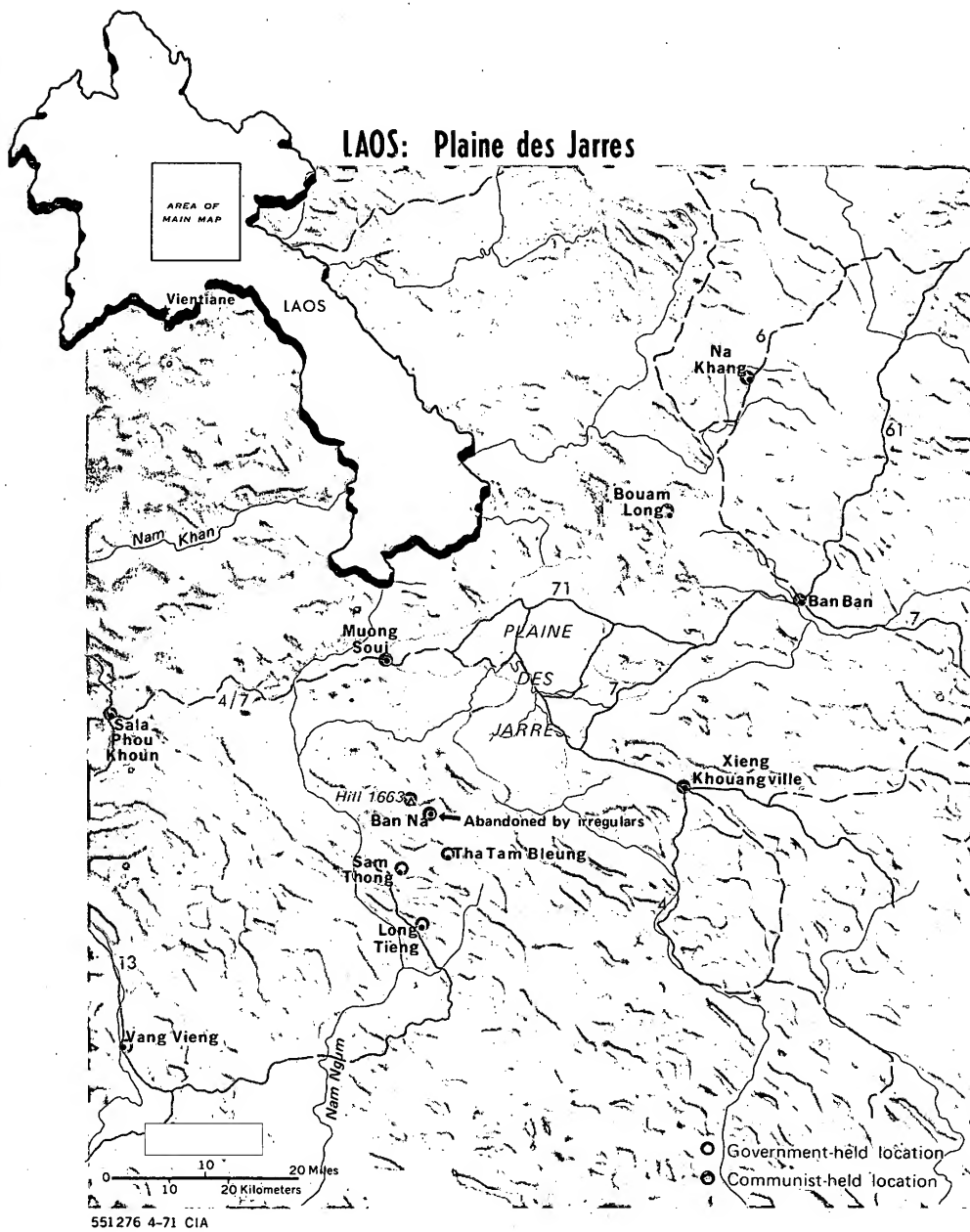
COMMUNIST CHINA - US

Yesterday's invitation to the US table tennis team now in Japan to visit the Chinese mainland is clearly Peking's response to the recent US decision to remove all restrictions on travel to the mainland. The visit of the US team, which will enter China within a week, will be the first time that a group of Americans have been allowed into the country since the Communists came to power in 1949. Details of the visit, which will involve 15 Americans, are still being worked out.

The Chinese may also be interested in arranging a visit of US political figures to China in the near future.

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LAOS

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Although the loss of Ban Na will weaken the government defenses of the Long Tieng complex, recent developments have tended to reduce the base's importance. As a consequence of Communist harassment, the base has not been instrumental in protecting the western approaches to Long Tieng and last week the government moved an irregular task force into an area about three miles northwest of the site to establish a new fire support base at Hill 1663. Until such time as the Communists are able to neutralize this new position, Hill 1663 can assume some of Ban Na's defensive responsibilities. In addition, there has also been an eastward drift of Communist units in recent weeks which has lessened the threat to Long Tieng from the Sam Thong area.

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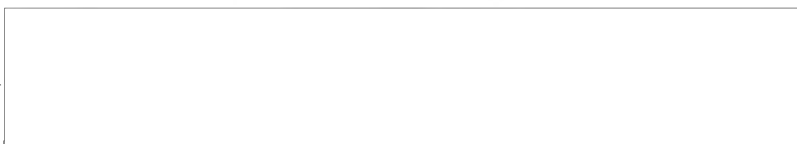
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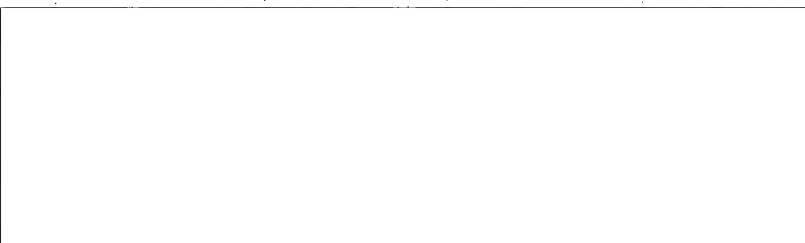
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NOTE:

Ecuador: President Velasco has retained the support of the armed forces, at least for the time being. After firing his nephew, the controversial minister of defense, Velasco last night demanded that General Jacome, who led last week's abortive revolt, stand trial for insurrection. Jacome has agreed to a military-judicial inquiry, and the latest military uprising appears to have ended. Velasco went to Guayaquil yesterday in an effort to build popular support for his position.

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